

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00874 251033Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-01 AID-05 EB-08 EUR-12
SP-02 L-03 OES-07 /063 W
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P R 250910Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9483
INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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DEPT PASS AID/W AND PEACE CORPS/W

ADCOR ROME FOR RODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN, FAO, AORG
SUBJECT: FOOD CORPS PROPOSAL

REF: A. 77 STATE 301059; B. BAMAKO 0096; C. YAOUNDE 0078;
D. STATE 27088

1. FOLLOWING REPRESENTS VIEWS OF ADO AND PEACE CORPS/NIAMEY.
POST APPLAUDS REALISTIC, THOROUGH AND CANDID RESPONSES
CONTAINED REFTELS B AND C. BELIEVE COMPLICATIONS CITED
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REFTELS IN CREATING NEW FOOD CORPS MAY OUTWEIGH THE
ADVANTAGES. IN PARTICULAR, LIKELIHOOD OF OBTAINING LOCAL
VOLUNTEERS FOR PROGRAM IN NIGER IS VERY SLIM, GIVEN
PAUCITY OF TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED NIGERIENS AND THE
INCREASING DEMAND FOR THOSE WHO ARE AVAILABLE TO
SERVE IN REGULAR POSITIONS COVERING THE VERY AREAS
THAT WOULD BE ADDRESSED BY FOOD CORPS.

2. THE VARIETY OF EXISTING OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE DONOR PROGRAMS, WHICH RUN THE GAMUT FROM PROVIDING (A) PURELY HIGH-LEVEL TECHNICAL EXPERTISE, TO (B) A MIXTURE OF HIGH-LEVEL AS WELL AS VOLUNTEER AND EX-VOLUNTEER PERSONNEL, TO (C) PURELY VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE, APPEAR TO OFFER SUFFICIENTLY FLEXIBLE VEHICLES FOR SUPPORTING HOST COUNTRY EFFORTS AND TECHNICIANS AND MEETING THE GOALS ESPoused FOR THE FOOD CORPS. IT IS NOTED THAT THE PROGRAMS OF THE ENTIRE DONOR COMMUNITY ARE ALREADY TARGETED AT THOSE AREAS OF CONCERN DELINEATED IN PARA 1, REF (A) AND IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THE STABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE FOOD CORPS WOULD STRENGTHEN THESE PROGRAMS. IN FACT, INTEGRATING A NEW BUREAUCRACY AND CORPS OF VOLUNTEERS INTO EXISITING REGIONAL, HOST COUNTRY AND DONOR STRUCTURES WOULD PROBABLY PROVE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

3. AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH WHICH COULD AVOID ABOVE PROBLEMS WOULD BE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS, AS NEEDED, THROUGH THE OPG AND/OR OTHER MECHANISMS, TO EXISTING VOLUNTEER GROUPS WHICH HAVE SOLID TRACK RECORDS AND ARE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE ACTIVITES OF THE TYPE PROPOSED FOR FOOD COPRS. ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT ORGANIZATIONS COULD INCLUDE LDC AND DC VOLUNTEER GROUPS, PUBLIC AS WELL AS PRIVATE.
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4. REGRET DELAYED RESPONSE REF (A).
DECONTROL DECEMBER 31, 1978.JAMES

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